

3. Portions of three teeth, and fragments of two tympanic bones of a species of spermaceti whale, from the sands of Ashley River. The best preserved portion of a tooth in its perfect condition appears to have been about five inches in length, and at its middle it measures four and three-quarter inches in circumference. For the species the name *Physeter antiquus* is proposed.

4. Quite lately I received from Prof. Holmes fragments of both sides of a lower jaw, two teeth, and a portion of a rib of a cetacean, from the miocene formation of Virginia. The species belonged to the family Delphinidæ, and probably appertains to a new genus. The more perfect of the two teeth appears to have been about five inches in length, and it is curved conical. The fang is quadrate and hollowed, and the surface of the tooth, nearly to the end of the crown, which appears not to have been covered with enamel, is annularly and longitudinally corrugated. The greatest circumference of this tooth is three inches in length, and nearly straight. For the animal I propose the name of *Orycterocetus quadratidens*.

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August 9th.

Vice-President BRIDGES in the Chair.

A letter was read from Samuel V. Merrick, Esq., acknowledging the receipt of his notice of election as a Member.

Also a letter from James M. Hamilton, Esq., dated New York, Aug. 6, 1853, addressed to Mr. R. E. Peterson, in relation to the Hamilton Lands. Referred to the Committee on the subject.

Mr. Charles Girard made a communication, on behalf of Prof. Baird and himself, upon a species of frog, and another of toad, which they had recently described from specimens in the Herpetological Collections of the U. S. Exploring Expedition. Both of the species were obtained in Oregon, the frog on Puget Sound, and the toad on Columbia River. He characterised them as follows:

*RANA PRETIOSA*, B. and G.—Ground color above reddish-brown, blotched with black. A deep brown vitta extending from the eye to the shoulder in passing over the tympanum, and below which is a yellowish one passing over the angle of the mouth. Beneath dull greenish-yellow. Vomerine teeth disposed in two roundish groups, between the inner nostrils. Tympanum very distinct, rather small. Feet underneath granulated. Fingers slender and tapering. Toes webbed to their tip. A small and flattened horny processus at the base of the inner toe, and a minute conical metatarsal tubercle situated between the fourth and fifth toes. Skin finely granular on the anterior portion of the back, more coarsely posteriorly, and also on the sides of the abdomen. Two dorsal series of pores, one on each side of the back, but not very conspicuous.

*Obs.*—Is distinguished from *R. aurora* in having proportionally much shorter legs, especially the hind ones; also by the palmaria of the toes, the membrane of which extends to their very tip, whilst in *R. aurora* the tip of the toes extends beyond their membrane. The granulation of the body and inferior surface of the feet is another feature by which both species differ.

*BUFO COLUMBIENSIS*, B. and G.—Ground color light greenish, with large and irregular black blotches and reddish dots: a dorsal white vitta; an oblique black patch under the eye. Beneath of a soiled yellow, maculated. First finger equal to the second in length. Upper surface of head without elevated ridges and grooves; skin in this region rather thin, and firmly adhering to the skull. Parotids oblong, quite small. Tympanum small, very distinct. Toes webbed to nearly their tip. Two large metatarsal tubercles. A membranous ridge along the inner edge of the tarsus. Skin glandulous.

*Obs.*—May be distinguished from *B. boreas* by the relative size of the first

and second fingers, which, in the present species are equal in length, whilst in *B. boreas* the first is longer than the second. The membranes uniting the toes are more deeply emarginate in *B. columbiensis*, and in which also the sole of the foot is granular instead of being smooth.

August 16th.

Vice-President BRIDGES in the Chair.

A communication was read from the Royal Bavarian Academy, dated Munich, 6th Nov., 1853, acknowledging the receipt of the Proceedings, vol. 5, Nos. 9—12; vol. 6, Nos. 1 and 2; and Journal, new series, part 2 of vol. 2; and requesting certain Nos. of the Proceedings deficient in their series; also transmitting their publications announced this evening.

Mr. Girard presented two communications by Prof. Baird and himself, intended for publication in the Proceedings, entitled "Descriptions of Fishes collected by Captains R. B. Marcy and George Mc'Clellan, in Arkansas," and "Descriptions of new species of Fishes, collected by Mr. John H. Clarke, on the United States and Mexican Boundary Survey, under Lieut.-Col. James D. Graham;" both of which were referred to Mr. Cassin, Dr. Ruschenberger and Dr. Hallowell.

The following communication was read from Dr. D. D. Owen, dated New Harmony, Ind., August 1, 1852:

"After submitting my paper read before the Academy of Natural Sciences, and printed in the Journal, 2d series, vol. 2, pl. 2, Jan. 1853, on a supposed new earth, or a modification of a new one, I supplied Dr. Genth with a portion of the mineral, with a request that he would examine it, and let me know the result.

Dr. Girard had no time during my stay in Philadelphia to enter fully into the investigation, but since my return to the west he addressed a letter to me on the subject, which reached this place during my absence from home, which I left on the 15th of June last, and did not return until lately, when the letter was received.

I beg leave now to submit the result of his conclusions in regard to it, which are very likely correct, though some of the reactions which I obtained require further investigation, which I propose to undertake when the work I am now engaged on shall have been completed.

Extract of a letter from Dr. Genth to Dr. D. D. Owen:

"I have just completed the experiments with your thalia, and have come to the conclusion that it is nothing but magnesia. Magnesia shows sometimes such a strange behaviour with reagents, that one is inclined to think it a new earth. I had the same case with my analysis of Kämmerite (Rhodophyllite.) It is possible that the relations which exist in the mineral had not been destroyed, and that you have a solution of the mineral, for instance, a solution of aluminate of magnesia. I separated both with acet. of potash, and free acet. acid and carb. of baryta. The only strange reaction was, that it fell down with  $\text{NH}_4\text{O}$  in presence of  $\text{NH}_4\text{Cl}$ , but I find it now in all the magnesian minerals which I examine in a similar manner.

From the oxalate of your thalia I prepared the pure earth. With cobalt solution before the blowpipe gave it a flesh-colored mass. Dissolved readily in very dilute acid, and gave no precipitate with ammonia, in presence of chloride of ammonium, and all the reactions of magnesia. The sulphate gave with sulphate of ammonia the well known double salt in oblique rhombic prisms. The